

## Abstract

### TECHNIQUE FOR ADDRESSING A CLUSTER OF NETWORK SERVERS

A single firewall or cluster of firewalls with a public IP address is interfaced to an  
5 internet public subnet to receive service requests for a cluster of network servers. A  
first private subnet with a plurality of private IP addresses is interfaced to the single  
firewall or cluster of firewalls to receive the service requests after passing through a  
firewall. A plurality of redundant load balancers with a respective plurality of private IP  
addresses are interfaced to the first private subnet to receive the service requests after  
10 passing through the first private subnet. The load balancers are interfaced to a second  
private subnet. The network servers with respective private IP addresses are interfaced  
to the second private subnet to receive the service requests from the load balancers.  
At an initialization time, a private IP address is defined for the network load balancer  
system within the internet access subnet. When one of the load balancers becomes  
15 primary at the initialization time or switches from a standby state to an active state, the  
network load balancer system private IP address is defined as an alias in an interface  
table to be recognized by the one load balancer. When the one network load balancer  
switches from the active state to a standby state, the network load balancer system  
private IP address previously defined as the alias is released from the interface table.